



Established in 1912  
Affiliations:



Charter Member

Flathead Valley



Member Since 1966

## F. H. STOLTZE LAND & LUMBER COMPANY

### *Lumber Manufacturers*

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February 8, 2007

Chairman and Committee Members  
House Business and Labor Committee

Dear Members,

Today you are considering HB565. As Vice President of F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Company, I have had personal experience with the "safe work place" provisions that this bill is trying to address.

Our Company has been doing business in Montana since the turn of the century. We have always been very concerned about work place safety! Some of the efforts we have done are:

1. Daily encouragement to work safely.
2. Required lock out tag out procedures.
3. Safety committee of employees.
4. Bi-weekly safety meetings.
5. Safety plans.
6. Participation in State safety programs such as the SHARPS program.
7. Founding party in the Montana Logging Association Safety Program.
8. Participation in MLA safety training and inspection program.
9. Annual training for logging contractors and their employees.
10. Encourage loggers and their employees to become part of the Accredited Logger Program.

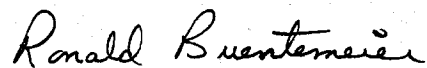
With all of the above efforts we were accused of having an "unsafe work place" on our Company lands when an accident occurred on one of our contract logging jobs. The Workman's Compensation program preformed, as it should have and provided the benefits required.

In this case the only involvement that Stoltze had was ownership of the land and setting the silvicultural prescription for the timber harvest. As a subcontractor he controlled the entire operation. The subcontractor had been extensively involved in

safety programs on a daily basis as well as those provided and encouraged by Stoltze. In this case, Stoltze and the contractor had done everything correctly. The employee acted in a very irresponsible and negligent way.

I urge you to pass HB565. It will help landowners, contractors, and workers in Montana. Thank-you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald Buente-meier".

Ronald Buente-meier  
Vice President/General Manager